



SCHOOL BUS, INC.

5100 W. 8th Street • Sioux Falls, SD 57107 • (605) 334-6644 • Fax (605) 334-4245

Steven C. Hey, President
Jim W. Shafer, Manager

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION "POINT OF CONTACT" **JULY 2006 NEWSLETTER**

BE SURE TO REGISTER FOR THESE SESSIONS IF YOU HAVN'T ALREADY!!

2006 ANNUAL SCHOOL BUS DRIVER TRAINING and TRAIN the TRAINER SESSIONS ARE SET

We currently have 37 signed up for the three "train the Trainer" classes in Sioux Falls, Pierre and Rapid City. July 3, 2006 is the cut off date for the TTT classes. Due to the holiday weekend we will extend the cut off date to Friday, July 7, 2006.

The following link is to the South Dakota Transportation Web site that will be updated as training locations are added for the fall training sessions. This site also has the "Train The Trainer" schedule. The South Dakota Transportation Web site is: <http://doe.sd.gov/oatq/transportation/index.asp> Remember you must pre-register for the "Train the Trainer" sessions with School Bus, Inc.

SDSTA Summer Meeting

Plan to attend the South Dakota School Transportation Meeting on July 14, 2006. The meeting is being held in Keystone, SD at the Holy smoke resort. The meeting will start at 10:30 AM. Presentations will be from the International Company on the effects of low and no sulfur on our current engines and the new '07 diesel engines. This will be a subject that will affect all of us. Also, a presentation by the Rapid City PD will be given on terrorism in the schools and on the bus. These meetings are very informative on what is happening in our industry. Please make plans to attend.

NTSB Publishes State of Van Use for Students

The National Transportation Safety Board periodically reviews the status of responses to recommendations it makes to states and organizations. In that process, NTSB recently published a map showing states' compliance with the Board's recommendation in 1999 that non-conforming buses (large vans) not be used to transport students or children in child care facilities. Only ten states prohibit the use of nonconforming vans by all schools and day care centers, sixteen states have partially implemented the recommendation; and the rest have little or no restriction on the use of nonconforming vans. You can view the map at: <http://www.nts.gov/Recs/mostwanted/StatusMaps/H-99-22.pdf>.

QUESTIONS

Q. We've always allowed our drivers to take their small children on the bus with them, but recently some parents have been complaining about it and now the school board is considering a change. Have other companies had a problem with this? What do they do?

A. This is generally a matter of local policy — either the Bus Company's or the school boards—and it varies around the country. On the one hand, many companies/districts believe that allowing drivers' preschool children to accompany them is an employee benefit that helps with driver recruitment and retention; on the other hand, some districts adhere to the policy that no one is allowed on the bus except students and school personnel—which excludes drivers' children. Even where the Board has adopted a policy allowing drivers to take their children on the bus, the issue is sometimes revisited in response to parent concerns.

Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel?

The Environmental Protection Agency has partnered with the Clean Diesel Fuel Alliance to produce an informative issue paper and a brochure on Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel fuel. June 1 was the deadline for oil refineries to produce at least 80% ULSD, and by September 1 it has to reach diesel terminals. Retail outlets may have ULSD by mid-October, but they are not required to sell ULSD until 2010. The exception is California, where all diesel fuel must be ULSD by September 1, 2006.

The information in this newsletter is distributed for information purposes only. It does not represent legal advice.